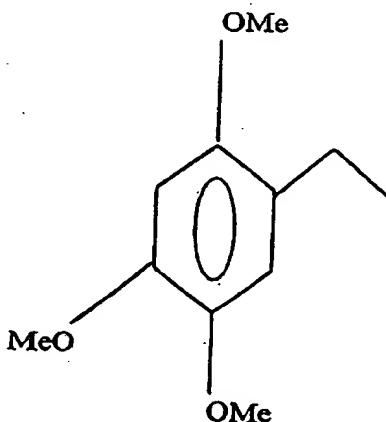


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice amended) A process for the preparation of 1-Propyl-2,4,5-trimethoxybenzene of the formula I :



the process comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing crude calamus oil or β -asarone in a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethanol, methanol, THF, DCM, toluene and chloroform;
- (b) hydrogenating the solution obtained in step (a) in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of Pd/C, Pt, Pd(OH)₂, Raney nickel and ammonium formate; at a pressure in the range of 10-40 psi hydrogen gas and at a temperature in the range of 15-40°C;
- (c) filtering the catalyst and removing the solvent under reduced pressure in the range of 10-100 mmHg; and
- (d) subjecting the reduced calamus oil to column of silica gel chromatography using an eluent to obtain the desired product in liquid form with 85-97% purity.

B¹